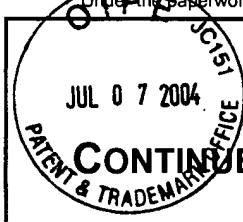


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 <p><b>REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</b></p> <p>Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).</p>	<i>Application Number</i>	09/841,171
	<i>Filing Date</i>	April 25, 2001
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	KUHARA
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2859
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Vargas, Dixomara
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	2382-17	

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a.  Previously submitted
- i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
- i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 07/09/2004 AWONDAF1 00000044 09841171  
 01 FC:1801 770.00 OP  
 02 FC:1201 172.00 OP  
 03 FC:1202 18.00 OP

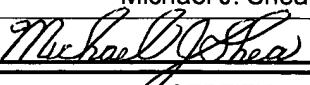
**2. Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 35 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a.  Applicant claims "small entity" status.
- b.  Fees are attached as calculated below:
- i.  RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) \$ 770.00
  - ii.  Petition is made to extend the due date 4 months (less months previously paid) \$ 1480.00
  - iii.  Other Additional Claims \$ 190.00
- c.  Check in the amount of **\$2440.00** enclosed
- d.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)
- e.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee(s) filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm), to Deposit Account No. 14-1140

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print Type)	Michael J. Shea	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,725
Signature		Date	July 7, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print Type)			
Signature		Date	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.